

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 07522 250748Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 /068 W  
-----104858 250803Z /14

P R 250732Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3091  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7522

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, KS  
SUBJ: DISSIDENTS COMMENT ON PRISONER RELEASE

REF: SEOUL 7134

1. KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT COALITION ISSUED STATEMENT AUGUST 17 EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION WITH NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS RELEASED BY ROKG ON AUGUST 15, STATEMENT INTRODUCED TWO THEMES CLEARLY DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE ANY PSYCHOLOGICAL BENEFITS ROKG MIGHT DERIVE FROM PRISONER RELEASE POLICY;  
A) STATEMENT IMPLIED ROKG ACTING UNDER FOREIGN PRESSURE;  
B) STATEMENT URGED ROKG TO RELEASE PRISONERS IN REPENTANCE FOR REGIME'S MORAL FAILURES. ROKG, OF COURSE, MAINTAINS IT RELEASES PRISONERS FROM ITS OWN MANGANIMITY AND ADMITS NO MORAL FLAW IN ITS HANDLING OF DISSIDENTS.

2. STRONGLY WORDED STATEMENT BEGAN BY NOTING: "THE RELEASE OF A SMALLER NUMBER OF PRISONERS ON EACH NATIONAL HOLIDAY HAS BECOME A POLITICALLY EXPEDIENT CUSTOM OF THE REGIME. WE BELIEVED THAT THE REGIME WOULD RELEASE ALL PRISONERS ON LIBERATION DAY, CONSIDERING THE CRITICAL ISSUES FACING  
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THE GOVERNMENT INTERNALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. WE HOPED THE REGIME WOULD MAE THE RELEASE IN REPENTENCE (FOR ITS POLICIES) AS WELL (AS TO ASSUAGE) EXTERNAL PRESSURE."

3. ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT, THE COALITION CONDEMNED ROKG HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES "WHICH DRIVE KOREA INTO ISOLATION IN THE WORLD" AND ARE THE PRODUCT OF A REGIME

"CONCERNED ONLY WITH MAINTAINING ITSELF IN POWER". THE STATEMENT CONCLUDED WITH CALL THAT ROKG: "STOP CHEAP POLITICAL TRICKS DESIGNED TO MONOPOLIZE POWER"; AND, "PAY HEED TO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE AND THE CALL OF CONSCIENCE, EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO STEP DOWN FROM OFFICE".

4. THE DECLARATION HAS RECEIVED NO PUBLICITY IN KOREAN MEDIA. KNCC SOURCES REPORT NO SIGNS OF ACTION AGAINST COALITION IN WAKE OF STATEMENT ALTHOUGH KCIA AGENTS REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER DECLARATION'S TONE TO SOME MEMBERS OF COALITION.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PRISONERS RELEASE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978SEOUL07522  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** SHUM, PINS, SOPN, KS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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